Jackie Withdraws Request For JFK Book Injunction

By LEROY AARONS 12/28/66

Special to The Inquirer and Washington Post

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Mrs. John F. Kennedy agreed Tuesday to withdraw her request for an immediate court injunction against publication of William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President." The action was announced in a joint statement by representatives of the President's widow and attorneys for Harper & Row, which plans to publish the book April 7.

The announcement came eight hours after a court session in which Harper's, in a surprise move, asked for and was granted a hearing Thursday on Mrs. Kennedy's motion for a temporary injunction to suppress the book.

DAY OF TALKS

The decision to drop the motion, which came after a full day of discussions between the parties, voids the Thursday hearing.

Observers speculated that Harper's action was designed to bring pressure on Mrs. Kennedy's representatives to reach a settlement in negotiations to delete portions of the book.

Meantime, in Middletown, Conn., Manchester was recovering from viral pneumonia. He also remained under "supportive" psychiatric treatment for depression, his psychiatrist said.

Dr. Asher L. Baker, the psychiatrist who had treated Manchester earlier, said depression "very frequently" follows a viral infection. But Dr. Baker emphasized that Manchester was without signs of "psychotic depression" and that he was "perfectly rational and in good spirits."

PRESSURE EASED

Tuesday's agreement, while it leaves the matter of deletions still unsetttled, eases pressure on everyone concerned. If the suit had gone to a hearing Thursday, Harper & Row would have filed documents—probably on Wednesday—answering Mrs. Kennedy's earlier charges that Harper and Manchester had violated agreements giving her the right of approval before the book is published.

It was understood that these documents contain material disputing Mrs. Kennedy's position, including evidence that her brother-in-law, Sen. Robert F.

Continued on Page 14, Column 3

Jackie Halts Motion For Book Injunction

Continued from First Page

Kennedy (D., N. Y.) had approved the book.

Harper's answer would thus have laid out for the first time before a court the other side of the case. Observers felt that the Kennedy's, eager to avoid this, were thus successfully pressured into dropping their bid for an injunction.

PERSONAL ITEMS

The announcement marked the latest turn in the literary furor over a book that, in its unedited form, contained many personal references — supplied by Mrs. Kennedy—about the 1963 assassination of her husband as well as a host of uncomplimentary references to President Johnson.

JACKIE ON VACATION

In Tuesday's court hearing, Supreme Court Justice Saul Streit agreed to continue until Jan. 16 the portion of the hearing involving Manchester. In the meantime, Manchester's attorney, Carleton Eldridge, is participating in the Harper-Kennedy talks.

Both Mrs. Kennedy, who is vacationing with her children in Antigua, British West Indies, and Sen. Kennedy sent get-well telegrams to Manchester. Mrs. Kennedy's message said: "Please know how distressed I am that you are sick, and how much I hope you will be better soon."